

AT A GLANCE: Hispanic Children in Washington State

Taken from the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report

Racial disproportionality exists for Hispanic children in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

Hispanic children are 1.3 times as likely to be referred to Child Protective Services as White children.

In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. 80 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

Compared with White children referred to CPS in 2005, after referral:

- Hispanic children were no more likely to be removed from home.
- Hispanic children were no more likely to remain in care for over two years.
- Disproportionality does not increase at future decision points.

In 2004, 80 percent of Hispanic children in foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of referral to CPS.

Little of the disproportionality for Hispanic children can be explained by statistically controlling for poverty, family structure, and case characteristics.

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This information is based on Children's Administration data from 2004.

This report can be found at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/pubs/disproportionReport.asp>

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